Alabama Student Loan Program — KHEAA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apply Online Now for Student Financial Aid

MONTGOMERY, AL (**February 11, 2004**)—Students wanting college financial aid for the 2004-2005 school year should apply online now at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

That's where they can find the electronic version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is used to apply for federal and state student aid.

Susan Wales, a counselor at Tanner High School, advises her students to file the FAFSA online.

"There are many benefits," Wales said. "It's fast because results come seven to 14 days sooner. The site is secure so the student's data is safe, and it's easy because more detailed instructions are provided. With so much competition for financial aid, it is to our students' advantage to file early and accurately."

The FAFSA is the standard application for most federal, state, and school-administered grants, loans, and work-study programs.

Students who plan to file electronically should apply now for a Personal Identification Number (PIN). With a PIN, students will not have to mail a signature page, so the FAFSA will be processed even more quickly. To apply for a PIN, visit www.ed.pin.gov.

Students can also file a paper FAFSA, available at college or trade school financial aid offices and high school guidance offices. To complete the FAFSA, parents and students will need the same information they will use on their 2003 federal tax return.

For more information about student financial aid, visit www.alstudentaid.com; write the Alabama Student Loan Program, 110 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or phone 334-265-9720 or toll-free (800) 721-9720.